

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 3 and add new Claim 9 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium comprising a substrate and an ink-receiving layer provided on the substrate, wherein the ink-receiving layer ~~comprises~~ essentially consists of a binder and an alumina hydrate having a boehmite structure and a flat plate form, an average particle thickness of 2.0 to 6.0 nm and a crystallite size of 5.0 to 8.0 nm in a direction of a (020) plane, the crystallite size in the direction of a (020) plane being greater than the average particle thickness by at least 1 nm, and the recording medium has a degree of parallelization of 30 to 1,000.

2. (Original) The recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of parallelization is 50 to 800.

3. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the maximum peak in the pore radius distribution of the ink-receiving layer is present within a range of from 5.0 to 10.0 nm, and the pore volume thereof is within a range of from 0.35 to 1.0 cm³/g.

4. (Original) The recording medium according to Claim 1, which has a porous layer on the ink-receiving layer.

5. (Original) The recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein the porous layer comprises silica.

6. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a recording medium, which comprises the steps of:

mixing a slurry of an alumina hydrate having a boehmite structure, an average particle thickness of 2.0 to 6.0 nm and a crystallite size of 5.0 to 8.0 nm in a direction of a (020) plane, with a binder without drying the slurry to powder,

applying the resultant mixture to a substrate, and

drying the mixture.

7. (Withdrawn) An image forming process, comprising the step of ejecting an ink from minute orifices to apply the ink to the recording medium according to Claim 1 or 2.

8. (Withdrawn) The image forming process according to Claim 7, which comprises applying thermal energy to the ink to eject the ink from the minutes orifices.

--9. (New) The recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the ratio by weight of the alumina hydrate to the binder is from 7:1 to 15:1.--